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PATENT APPLICATION Serial No. 09/588,276

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

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 (Previously Presented) A method for testing a decoder of a digital bitstream comprising:

applying a test bitstream to the decoder being tested to decode the test bitstream, wherein the test bitstream includes at least one picture representing at least in part a reference image portion, wherein the at least one picture includes a region that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and a region that is an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion, whereby the decoder produces at least one picture including a decoded direct-coded region representative of the reference image portion and a decoded indirect-coded region representative of the reference image portion; and

comparing the decoded direct-coded and decoded indirect-coded regions representative of the reference image portion produced by the decoder being tested.

- (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the direct-coded representation is intra-coded, and wherein the indirect-coded representation is one of predictively coded and bidirectionally-coded.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the test bitstream is one of an MPEG bitstream and an MPEG-like bitstream.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the reference image portion includes at least one indicia, at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that is an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion, and wherein said comparing includes comparing the respective portions of the indicia in the decoded direct-coded and decoded indirect-coded regions.

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- Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said the test bitstream includes at least one additional picture of a sequence of pictures that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and that follows the at least one picture that includes direct coded and indirect coded representations of the reference image portion.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising repeatedly inserting the additional picture into the sequence of pictures at one of regular and irregular intervals.
- 7. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a test bitstream including a sequence of pictures representing at least a reference image portion, comprising:

producing a bitstream of at least one picture of the sequence of pictures that pictures, wherein the at least one picture includes a region that includes a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and a region that includes an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.

- (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the direct-coded representation is intracoded, and wherein the indirect coded representation is one of predictively coded and bidirectionally-coded.
- (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein producing a bitstream includes producing one of an MPEG bitstream and an MPEG-like bitstream.
- 10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the reference image portion has at least one indicia, at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that is an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.
- 11. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising producing in the bitstream at

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least one additional picture of the sequence of pictures that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and that follows the at least one picture that includes direct coded and indirect coded representations of the reference image portion.

- 12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising repeatedly inserting the additional picture into the sequence of pictures at one of regular and irregular intervals.
- 13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for generating a test bitstream including a sequence of pictures representing at least one reference image portion, comprising:
 - a generator of a bitstream of at least one picture of the sequence of pictures that pictures, wherein the at least one picture includes a region that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and a region that is an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.
- 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the direct coded representation is intracoded and wherein the indirect coded representation is one of predictively coded and bidirectionally-coded.
- 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said generator includes a generator of one of an MPEG bitstream and an MPEG-like bitstream.
- 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 in combination with:

means for applying the bitstream from said generator to a video decoder, wherein the video decoder decodes the bitstream;

means coupled to said video decoder for observing a decoded image having a first decoded region responsive to the direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and a second decoded region responsive to the indirect-coded

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representation of the reference image portion.

- 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the reference image portion has at least one indicia, at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that includes a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that includes a indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.
- 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said generator of a bitstream further generates at least one additional picture of the sequence of pictures that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and that follows the at least one picture that includes direct coded and indirect coded representations of the reference image portion.
- 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said generator repeatedly inserts the additional picture into the sequence of pictures at one of regular and irregular intervals.
- 20. (Original) A bitstream for testing a decoder comprising a coded representation of a sequence of pictures wherein at least one picture of the sequence of pictures includes a region that is a direct-coded representation of a reference image portion and a region that is an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.
- 21. (Original) The bitstream of claim 20 wherein the direct coded representation is intracoded, and wherein the indirect coded representation is one of predictively coded and bidirectionally-coded.
- (Original) The bitstream of claim 20 wherein the bitstream is one of an MPEG bitstream and an MPEG-like bitstream.

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- 23. (Original) The bitstream of claim 20 wherein the reference image portion has at least one indicia, at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that is a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and at least a portion of the indicia being in the region that is an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.
- 24. (Original) The bitstream of claim 20 further including at least one additional picture of the sequence of pictures that includes a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and that follows at least some of the pictures of the sequence of pictures.
- 25. (Original) The bitstream of claim 24 wherein the additional picture of the sequence of pictures that includes a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion is repeatedly inserted into the sequence of pictures at one of regular and irregular intervals.
- 26. (Currently Amended) A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer instructions for producing a coded bitstream wherein the coded bitstream includes a sequence of pictures representative of at least one reference image portion, comprising:

means for causing a computer to produce a coded bitstream that includes at least one picture of the sequence of pictures that pictures, wherein the at least one picture includes a direct-coded representation of the reference image portion and an indirect-coded representation of the reference image portion.

- 27. (Original) The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said means for causing a computer to produce a bitstream includes means for causing the computer to produce an intra-coded representation of the reference image portion.
- 28. (Original) The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said means for causing a

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computer to produce a bitstream includes means for causing the computer to produce one of a predictively coded and a bidirectionally-coded representation of the reference image portion.

29. (Currently Amended) The storage medium of claim 26 wherein said means for causing a computer to produce a bitstream produces one of an MPEG bitstream portion and an MPEG-like bitstream portion.